

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
October 11, 2021

Mayor McConn called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: McConn, Watkins, Johannes, Rinehart, Duke
 Absent: None

Public Comments – Sheriff Pollack gave an update on the new jail along with his monthly report. He reported that the ribbon cutting will be held on October 22nd at 14:00.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$329,272.46. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Old Business – Approve Credit Card Processing Agreement – Point & Pay – Manager Mersman told Council he had negotiated with Point & Pay for a shorter term contract. The shortest term they will offer is a one (1) year with a higher set up fee of \$1,000 versus the standard \$500 new customer start up fee. He added that Point & Pay is the recommended partner with our BS&A software. Following discussion, Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the credit card processing agreement with Point & Pay. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Approve purchase of new police vehicle – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the purchase of a new police vehicle. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Approve Public Participation Plan – Manager Mersman said that engaging citizens through the planning process is crucial to the success of the plan; such as major planning, zoning, and development projects. A public participation plan is required to be in place before the close out of the CDBG Grant for S. Ruggles / Compton Streets. Councilman Duke moved to approve the Public Participation Plan. Seconded by Johannes. Motion carried.

Approve Declaration of Restrictive Covenant – Manager Mersman told Council that EGLE and the EPA have submitted a declaration of restricted covenant to the city for signature for the LA Darling properties. He said the covenant has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the City's environmental attorney and that this was a requirement of the City's settlement with EPA. Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the Declaration of Restrictive Covenant. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Rental Housing Ordinance Board of Appeals – Integra Homes, LLC Appeal – Attorney Lillis explained the Board of Appeals process and the duties of Council regarding the appeal. The attorney for Integra Homes stated they felt due process was not followed and they were looking for reimbursement of \$360 penalties paid, \$1,500 in attorney fees and \$2,100 for rent reimbursement. Attorney Lillis told council

they do not have the authority to decide whether to reimburse attorney or rent. He said the only authority they would have would be on reimbursing the penalties paid. Safebuilt Inspector Kline went through the process and outlined the letters sent and the original inspection with the Integra property. Following discussion, it was decided to review and make a decision on each fine separately.

\$70 Re-Inspection Fee – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to do nothing regarding the \$70 re-inspection fee as there were violations that needed corrected. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

\$40 Re-Inspection Enforcement Letter Fee – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to waive the \$40 Re-Inspection Enforcement Letter as Integra Homes, LLC stated they did not receive the letter in the mail. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

\$150 2nd Re-Inspection Enforcement Letter Fee – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to waive the \$150 2nd Re-Inspection Enforcement Letter as they had paid their registration and inspection and overlooked calling for an inspection. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

\$100 Posting Fee – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to waive the \$100 Posting. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson said that Halloween is coming and everyone should look out for kids and road obstructions. Fire Chief Wilber said they have been busy with kids for Fire Prevention Week. He said they will be hosting a Fire Safety Open House and Pizza Party on October 22 from 5 – 7.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman updated Council on the Ruggles / Compton Street project. He also wanted to make everyone aware that the crew is in the process of marking water lines around the City for asset management.

Council Comments – Mayor McConn is pleased with the construction crew and it's attentiveness to the residents. He also thanked the Fire Department for making a difference. He praised the County's new radio system and the 800 MH crystal clear communications and thanked the community for supporting it. Councilman Duke said that he has a newfound respect for council after serving two years and wishes everyone would serve at some point. Councilman Johannes thanked the police department for their effort down by Anderson School. He feels it has slowed traffic down in that area. Vice-Mayor Watkins reminded everyone with the time change coming soon and it getting darker earlier we need to watch out for kids and slow our driving down. He also thinks the rental process needs to be discussed further.

Moved by Vice-Mayor Watkins to go into a closed session at 6:40 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Council returned from closed session.

Moved by Mayor McConn to give City Manager Mersman a 3 ½ % raise retroactive to July 1st. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Watkins. Motion Carried.

Mayor McConn stated that there is a lot of work going forward and Clerk Smith will have a lot of extra work involved.

Moved by Mayor McConn to give Clerk Smith a ½ % raise retroactive back to July 1. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion Carried.

Adjourn – Councilman Johannes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Lambright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Lambright, Deputy Clerk